



Litter Picks

Electronic Newsletter

August 2006

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

P.O. Box 10009, Richmond, Virginia 23240. (804) 698-4055 Fax (804) 698-4224.

DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Litter Picks, a look at litter prevention news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related to litter prevention and awareness. Had a successful clean up event? Recognized companies or citizens for their clean up efforts? Let us know by sending this information to Sheila Barnett at smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov.

Litter and Recycling Hot Spot Cleanup in Greenville County

Thank you, **County of Greenville** for submitting an interesting write up of your clean up of a county hot spot and how much you were able to recycle from one site.

Greenville County was extremely proud to clean up a great eyesore in our County this year. Rock Bridge Road is notoriously known as a dumping ground for tires and old white goods. The road is built over an old railroad and the slopes on either side are quite steep and deep. Violators back their vehicle up to the edge of the road and push their unwanted items out, watching them plummet to the bottom. This has been going on for forty years or more. The steep slope presented a problem. The County hired/rented a crane truck to lift the items from the bottom of the slope to the road, where the items were loaded up and taken to be recycled.

With the help of the Litter Prevention grant and volunteer work crews from the Greenville County Correctional facility were able to remove over 16 tons of white goods, 470 passenger tires and 213 truck tires. All of these items were recycled after collection. The clean up took 25 men, four full work days to complete. Contact Natalie Slate, the Deputy County Administrator, at (434) 348-4205 or nslate@greenvillecountyva.gov

Mattaponi & Pamunkey River Stewardship Day

Kitty Cox, the River Stewardship Day Coordinator invites participants to pre-register for River Stewardship Day on September 16th which will include picking up litter along both rivers, landscaping projects, wildlife mapping, a river trash scavenger hunt, and watershed educational activities. In order to aid event organizers in their planning, Ms. Cox requests that all participants contact her in advance. (804) 769-4917 or kcox@kingwilliamcounty.us.

The event is sponsored by the **King William /West Point Litter Prevention Program** and the Mattaponi & Pamunkey Rivers Association.

Did You Know?

- ✓ The performance and accounting reports are needed in order for localities to qualify for the litter prevention and recycling grants. Performance and Accounting Reports must be postmarked by **August 31, 2006**. To download a performance and accounting form, go to: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/forms.html>
- ✓ The Litter Prevention and Recycling Fund Board met on August 9, 2006. DEQ staff presented several applications that were postmarked after the June 30, 2006 deadline to the Board for consideration. The Board reaffirmed that localities that submitted late applications or submit late performance and accounting reports will not be eligible to receive grants in the present FY 07 grant cycle.
- ✓ In the fall of 2005, more than 4,500 volunteers participated in the VA Waterways Cleanup Program. All across the Commonwealth, there are groups registering to hold pick ups. Go to http://www.longwood.edu/cleanva/images/icc_virginia_signup_form.htm if you are interested in being a site captain for hosting a pick up. Go to <http://www.longwood.edu/cleanva/iccsitesva06.htm> to see the nearly 50 localities that have already registered pick ups for September and October!

Adopt-a-Highway - September 16 is Official Statewide Cleanup Day

Virginia's official statewide fall cleanup is scheduled for September 16; however, group clean ups will continue to be scheduled throughout September and October. Individuals who wish to join forces with Adopt-a-Highway groups in their areas need to contact their local Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator to find out if there is a group that they can join. The list of Adopt-a-Highway Coordinators can be accessed by going to: <http://www.virginiadot.org/infoservice/prog-aah-coords.asp>. If you have a group of people who wish to do a one-time pick up, or if you want to do a self-cleanup, the Adopt-a-Highway Coordinators can issue you a temporary permit and provide you with supplies needed to do a pick up. Registered groups need to remember to contact their coordinator after doing a pick up or complete VDOT's on-line pick up card because this is how VDOT knows that their volunteers are active and are picking up their adopted stretches of road. Here is the link to VDOT's litter pick up report card: <http://www.virginiadot.org/infoservice/prog-aah-report.asp>

Litter Picks Continued

Summertime Litter Pick up Jobs for Youth

The Washington Metro system and other state programs offered in Alaska, Oregon, and South Carolina have found a workforce willing to pick up litter during the summer. The Metro's Summer Employment Program hires young people ages 14 – 21 during their summer vacation to clean up litter in the cars, buses, and stations. Employing youth has several benefits. It teaches them life lessons such as good stewardship and work ethics while they are able to draw summertime paychecks. To learn more about Metro's Summer Employment Program, contact Cassandra Graves at (202) 962-1365 or cgraves@wmata.com

Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) support a Youth Litter Program. Visit their web site by going to: <http://www.alparalaska.com/programs.html>

In Oregon, the Youth Litter Patrol Program is funded through the sale of custom license plates.

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/OOM/Maint.shtml#Youth Litter Patrol Program>

In South Carolina, the Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway administration have partnered with localities to fund youth corp. litter programs which include litter cleanups and landscaping.

<http://www.scdot.org/community/youthcorps.shtml>

Calendar of Events:

August:

15 – 16 **SPSA FREE**, Talkin Trash! Teacher Training Workshop. 9 a.m. Location TBA. Beth Garrison (757) 420-4700 or bgarrison@spsa.com

25 Deadline to register for the Virginia Environmental Education Conference and 2nd Annual Professional Development Meeting for Virginia Naturally Partners "Racing to Improve the Environment." Smith Mountain Lake. September 19 – 20, 2006. Amanda Archer (540) 721-2759 or aarcher@vt.edu.

September:

9 **Fairfax County** Household Hazardous Waste Clean-up Day. Herndon, Location to be determined. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Contact Jeffrey Smithberger (703) 324-5498 or jeffrey.smithberger@fairfaxcounty.gov

Nelson County James River Clean-Up. From the James River Park to the Wildlife Center. Contact Paulette Albright at 540-377-5754 or britemtn@cfw.com

October:

11- 13 **City of Roanoke** Annual Virginia Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Conference. <http://www.conted.vt.edu/va-ems/registration.html>

Disclaimer: Reference in this publication to any specific business, commercial product, process or service by trade name, trademark or otherwise does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation or favoring by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality or any other state government agency.

Pulaski Officials Lead By Example in Saturday Morning Cleanups of Town

The members of the **Pulaski** Economic Development Board talked about cleaning up Downtown Pulaski. But talking didn't get the job done, so they agreed to gather at 7 a.m. on Saturdays to sweep sidewalks, clean windows, cut weeds, and pick up litter. Even Mayor Charles Wade has been among the cleanup volunteers. At the July 26 meeting of the Economic Development Board, they discussed the idea of printing flyers to invite citizens to help with cleaning up Pulaski. Sybil Atkinson, board chairwoman says that the group would welcome all who want to participate in cleaning up the town.

Contact Aric H. Bopp, the Executive Director of the New River Valley Economic Alliance at (540) 267-0007 or abopp@nrvalliance.org

Getting Tough on Graffiti

The **City of Richmond** has taken a zero tolerance stand against graffiti vandals and has prosecuted approximately 50 individuals over the past four years. The toughest penalty won against a first-time vandal included 60 days in jail, \$2,400 to be paid in restitution, and 200 hours of community service.

For more information about The Clean City Commissions anti-graffiti program and its success, contact Steve Nuckolls at (804) 788-3453 or steve.nuckolls@bankofamerica.com

The **Hampton Roads Clean Commission** also recognizes that graffiti attracts litter and they have dedicated several web pages to explaining the Broken Window Theory which states that when an area is uncared for, it attracts additional undesirable elements among these elements is litter. Check out their tips on what to do about graffiti, read about the broken window theory, and check out their information about litter laws by going to:

<http://www.hrclean.org/Litterlaw.shtml>

City's Proactive Approach to Cleaning up Yards

The **City of Richmond** is having greater success in cleaning up properties with inoperable vehicles, accumulation of trash, and tall weeds since the city streamlined the process of giving city inspectors authority to issue and deliver summons for property owners whose property does not meet city ordinances. In the past, it took a sheriff to issue and deliver summons. In FY 04-05, the city was only able to address 8,500 cases. Since City Inspectors have started doing the work themselves, they were able to address 10,400 cases in FY05-06. The result being that they had over 2,500 more cases in compliance.

Also helpful in addressing these issues is the city's proactive approach. Instead of waiting for citizens to call to call in a messy site, the City Inspectors are able to patrol neighborhoods to look for non-compliant sites

In late August, the city is planning to initiate an inmate cleanup program. In cases where the property owners live out of state or the original owner is deceased and the city cannot locate the heirs, inmates will be used to clean up these properties.

Gabriel Walker with Richmond City's Property Management Office anticipates that with the assistance of the inmates, the city will be able to clean up twice as much as they have in the past and there will be fewer backlogs. Last FY, the city abated 400 yards. For more information contact Gabriel Walker at (804) 646-0620 or walkerg@cirichmond.va.us